

Patent
42522-0817**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1 - 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) In an orthotic brace having a hip engaging unit formed to conform to the contour of a human hip, the improvement of an adjustable support plate assembly for positioning an appendant orthotic member at an operative position relative to an appendage of the user, comprising:

a support plate having a securement portion adjacent an anchor location on the hip engaging unit of the orthotic brace and a distal portion [[for]] to enable linking with the appendant orthotic member which is attachable to the user appendage, the securement portion having a curved configuration and a fastening structure that enables an adjustable movement relative to the anchor location to permit sliding movements of the distal end towards and away from the user to custom fit a fixed location of the distal portion relative to the user; and

a first fastener member for securing the curved configuration to the anchor location on the hip engaging unit to maintain a fixed operative desired position for the distal [[end]] portion relative to and offset from the user.

38. (Original) The orthotic brace of Claim 37, wherein the anchor location has a complementarily curved location to the curved configuration of the securement portion.

39. (Original) The orthotic brace of Claim 38, wherein the support plate has a straight distal portion.

40. (Currently Amended) The orthotic brace of Claim 38, wherein the securement portion has [[an]] a first elongated slot for receiving the first fastener member.

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41. (Currently Amended) The orthotic brace of Claim 38, wherein an anchor plate of a complementarily curved configuration is mounted on the anchor location to receive the first fastener member.

42. (Currently Amended) The orthotic brace of Claim 38, wherein the securement portion has a pair of elongated slots, and a pair of the first fastener members member and a second fastener member are configured to fit within the elongated slots and fasten to the anchor location.

43-66. (Cancelled)

67. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 37 further including a hinge unit and a support bar, the hinge unit is fixed to a distal portion of the support plate and the support bar is fixed to the hinge unit and the appendant orthotic member.

68. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 38 wherein the curved configuration of the securement portion and the complimentarily curved location are concaved towards the user's hip.

69. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 39 wherein the straight distal portion includes a linearly extending slot to enable a fixed attachment with a hinge member to permit relative movement of the appendage.

70. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 40 wherein the elongated slot extends linearly.

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71. (New) In an orthotic brace having a plastic hip engaging unit formed to conform to the contours of a human hip with a curved anchor location on a side of a user, the improvement of an adjustable support plate assembly for positioning an appendant orthotic member at a fixed operative position that can be set for a user relative to an appendage of the user, comprising:

an elongated support plate having a curved securement portion at one end complimentary to a curved configuration of the anchor location on the orthotic brace and a distal portion with means for connection to a hinge unit to permit controlled movement of the appendage, the curved securement portion having a fastening structure that enables an initial adjustable movement relative to the curved anchor location to permit sliding movements of the distal end towards and away from the user to determine a fixed location of the distal portion relative to the side of the user; and

a fastener member for fastening the curved securement portion at the fixed location on the curved anchor location by engagement with the curved securement portion to provide an operative fixed position for the distal portion offset relative to the side of the user.

72. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 71 wherein the fastener member is a threaded fastener.

73. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 71 wherein the fastening structures are a pair of elongated straight slots that permit only a movement of the distal portion towards and away from the user's appendage.

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74. (New) The orthotic brace of Claim 71 further including an anchor plate mounted on an interior side of the plastic hip engaging unit curved anchor location to receive and fasten to the fastener member with the plastic curved anchor location sandwiched between the anchor plate and the curved securement portion of the elongated support plate.